



Sierra Club Bulletin

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SIERRA CLUB OUTING OF JULY, 1930

The outing into the High Sierra this summer was, as usual, a huge success. Great praise must be given to Francis D. Tappaan who so efficiently managed the trip, giving every detail conscientious and careful attention. About 135 regular members of the party participated during the first two weeks and about 145 during the last two weeks, 30 going out and 40 coming in. The trip was unique in the fact that the party entered the mountains via Bishop and Rock Creek, crossing Mono Pass, and returned by way of Bishop Pass. This gave many of the members their first opportunity to appreciate the grandeur and wonderful coloring of the east side of the Sierra. The second two weeks party came in over Piute Pass which is also a wonderful entrance-way to the High Sierra. Three main camps were established, of about a week's duration each, the first in Mono Cañon opposite the Second Recess, the second at Colby Meadow in Evolution Valley, and the third on the Middle Fork of Kings River just opposite the point where Palisade Creek enters. This gave abundant opportunity for climbing nearby peaks. Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn and John Olmsted distinguished themselves by making a second ascent of the highest of the Devils Crags, and they also did much self-sacrificing work in helping 32 persons to the extreme top of the spire on the north summit of The Hermit, only two persons having previously made this ascent. A party of 13 was led up the North Palisade by Mr. Ernest Dawson, making, in all, 24 members of the Sierra Club party who ascended this summit this year. The Middle Palisade, Mount Humphreys, and many other difficult peaks were also ascended. The site for the stone rest hut to be erected on Muir Pass as a memorial to John Muir was selected and the actual work of construction under the supervision of the Forest Service is now under way. The Club is greatly indebted to Architect Henry H. Gutterson who, with the aid of Mr. Walter L. Huber, prepared the detailed plans. The site chosen as the most serviceable and appropriate is in the center of the Pass, right beside the trail, where a magnificent view to the north over Wanda Lake (named for one of John Muir's daughters), and an equally striking view down Le Conte Cañon in the vicinity of Helen Lake (named for John Muir's other daughter) are to be had. It was interesting to note the number of parties traveling this summer through this, the wildest and most rugged region of the Sierra. A memorable event was the performance of the Greek tragedy, entitled "Exhaustos," written and dramatized by Ansel Adams.* All of us will look back on the 1930 outing as one of the most attractive in the history of the Sierra Club.

1931 OUTING OF SIERRA CLUB

After careful consideration the Outing Committee has determined that the most attractive outing for members of the Club, which can be arranged for next year, and at the same time enable the members to participate at a minimum of expense, will be into the Yosemite National Park and vicinity. The plan is to start from the Soda Springs headquarters of the Club in Tuolumne Meadows about July 10th, traveling down the new trail leading through the Grand Cañon of the Tuolumne past the Waterwheel Falls which will be at their prime, Muir Gorge and White Horse Rapids, to Pate Valley where the Club will stay for two days. The next camp will be at Benson Lake where the party will remain for several days, and side trips will be taken into the northern portion of the park. The return will be made by way of Rodgers Lake and Matterhorn Cañon to

*Note: Members of the outing party may be interested in obtaining copies of "Exhaustos" and if a sufficient number enter their orders with the Secretary of the Club, it will be published at the price of \$1.00 a copy.

the Soda Springs, about July 24th, completing the first two weeks. The party will then start south over Vogelsang Pass into the Merced Cañon, visiting the Lyell Fork of the Merced with its attractive but seldom visited meadows, and will cross into the San Joaquin basin by way of Isberg Pass, and then on to the Rainbow Falls and Devils Postpile region. Several days' stay will be made at the Garnet Lake campsite which proved so attractive on the 1929 outing, giving another chance to explore the Mount Ritter and Minaret region. Return will be made to Tuolumne Meadows over Donohue Pass, enabling the party to leave the Soda Springs about the 7th of August, completing the second trip of two weeks. Those desiring to take this outing, or either half of it, are urged to notify the Secretary at once and thus aid in perfecting the plans. Such an application will not be considered binding in any sense.

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBIT

The annual exhibit of photographs will be held at the headquarters of the Sierra Club, 402 Mills Building, San Francisco, October 20th to 27th, inclusive. On Saturday afternoon, October 25th, the Club Rooms will be open from two to six o'clock. The exhibit will also be held at the headquarters of the Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club, 445 Wilcox Building, 206 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, November 3rd to 10th. Members of the party who took photographs on the recent Sierra Club outing are requested to send their albums to the Sierra Club, 402 Mills Building, San Francisco, by October 15th. Each photograph should be numbered to facilitate ordering of copies. It is hoped that everyone who took photographs will exhibit them for each collection always has some pictures of special interest not found elsewhere. The exhibit will include the photographs taken on the recent Sierra Club outing to the South Fork of the San Joaquin and the Middle Fork of the Kings by Ansel Easton Adams who was with the party for that special purpose. The exhibit is later than usual because Mr. Adams will be unable to finish his photographs any earlier.

PORTFOLIO OF THE 1930 OUTING

Ansel Easton Adams announces a portfolio collection of twenty-five selected photographs of the regions visited during the 1930 Sierra Club outing. The number of copies will be limited according to demand. Typography by Johnck and Seeger, binding by Hazel Dreis. The portfolio is priced at \$30.00. The order list will close November 15th. Delivery in December. Advise Ansel E. Adams or the Sierra Club if copies are desired. No deposit necessary.

MEYER LISSNER, 1871-1930

"May an ordinarily impersonal columnist vary his custom to render this tribute of personal affection to the memory of Meyer Lissner, who died in Los Angeles the other day? How personal it is may be indicated by the fact that when the writer resigned in disgust from the United States Shipping Board ten years ago, Lissner took his place, and stayed by the impossible job until it wrecked his health. Since then he has been living in comparative retirement, and the news of his death probably aroused few memories in the minds of newcomers to California, or of the younger generation which has grown up in the last ten years. But to those who recall the era of almost revolutionary reform in California politics, which centered in the election of Governor Hiram W. Johnson in 1910, it brought back many pictures of that strenuous time.

"Left fatherless at 15, with a family to support and no assets but a pawnshop, looted by burglars during the funeral, Meyer Lissner, by his own efforts, was able only twenty years later to retire from a successful practice of law and to have no occupation but unpaid public service. He was a leader in the reformation of politics and government, first in Los Angeles, and then in the State and the Nation. As chairman of the Republican State committee, he disclaimed all interest in patronage, but devoted himself to the promotion of the legislation pledged in the platform of the reform forces. Afterward, caught 'land-poor' in the wartime slump of real estate, he returned to the practice of law, and served on the California Industrial Accident Commission and the United States Shipping Board. On the latter he stood almost alone in upholding the policies which his colleagues were pledged to carry out, but constantly evaded. No man ever served California in a finer or more unselfish spirit, or with less thought of personal return."

The foregoing is extracted from Chester Rowell's *Comment in the San Francisco Chronicle* of August 2, 1930. In this connection it is interesting to members of the Sierra Club to recall that

it was a suggestion made by Meyer Lissner at one of the campfires on the Sierra Club outing of 1914 which encouraged the Club to sponsor a bill providing for the construction of trails in the Sierra. This was introduced in January, 1915, and the then recent death of John Muir gave rise to the appropriate suggestion that the trail so built connecting Mount Whitney and the Yosemite Valley, near the crest of the Sierra, be named the "John Muir Trail."

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

On August 9th it was announced by the Superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks that a construction crew, from its camp at 14,000 feet elevation, will have finished the trail to the "top of the United States" before the end of August, and will also have made passable the trail down the west side of Mount Whitney to Crabtree Meadows. Also, that another crew has nearly connected up the section of the High Sierra Trail from Seven Mile Hill to Bearpaw Meadow. No longer will it be necessary for the hiker or packer to descend two thousand feet down, down into Buck Cañon and climb out again. The new trail keeps an even grade from Crescent Meadow, at Giant Forest, to Bearpaw Meadow, and it will cut the time between the two points from seven to three hours.

On August 13th announcement was made that another completed project had been added to the trail system during the preceding week, when the two crews working on the Paradise-Atwell Trail met. This new trail, which connects Hospital Rock with Atwell Station, is 15 miles in length and practically cuts in half the mileage on the former route for pack stock between these two points. The trail is now open for public use, and considerable hiking and stock travel is expected to make use of it. In addition to its chief purpose in providing a direct route between Hospital Rock and Atwell Station, it will be of great value for fire protection as a means of quick access to a hazardous area.

After much investigation and discussion of the best possible route that would eliminate the double climb of Shepherd and Junction passes on the John Muir Trail, both of which exceed 13,000 feet in elevation, a construction crew is now enroute to this vicinity to start work on a new route. When completed, the new route will not only have eliminated the double climb, but also will have cut the distance in miles and the time in hours. This improvement has been looked forward to for many years by those whose good fortune it has been to get into this superb section of the High Sierra.

A REPORT ON THE HUMBOLDT REDWOOD OUTING OF THE SIERRA CLUB

MAY 29 TO JUNE 1, 1930

A few miles south of Dyerville in Humboldt County the clear stream of Bull Creek pours into the South Fork of the Eel River. On the rich alluvial flats of this creek are located several particularly fine groves of pure first growth redwood which are included among the projects of the State Park Commission and the Save-the-Redwoods League. The headwaters of the creek flow through a mixed forest of Douglas fir, oak, madroña and maple. This whole interesting and valuable timber area was visited under the auspices of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club by a camping party of 85 that was unique in being the first organized group ever to ascend the wild and beautiful canyon of upper Bull Creek and cross scenic Grasshopper Ridge to the east.

The party, led by Mr. L. K. Cosper, left San Francisco on the evening of May 29th and traveled by Northwestern Pacific train to South Fork station where we were met by Mr. Glenn Thompson, Warden of the Humboldt Redwood State Park, who thereafter was on hand, literally at every turn, to show us the way and whose careful planning and forethought were invaluable.

The first day's walk took us by way of the notable redwood groves of the Pacific Lumber Company at Dyerville Flat and Bull Creek Flat, through the holdings of the Metropolitan Lumber Company to a creekside camp near the end of the valley where the Petrolia road starts climbing to Panther Gap. Next day some of the party returned downstream but the majority followed Warden Thompson up Bull Creek canyon over Grasshopper Ridge and down to camp on the Eel River opposite Canoe Creek—a walk of perhaps 16 miles with a climb of about 3000 feet, over a route seldom if ever before trod by a white woman, and containing a surprising variety of pleasing scenery.

Sunday morning was, by unanimous agreement, devoted to a leisurely rest in the Kenos Mather grove after our efforts of the previous day. An easy walk of some 6 miles along the Redwood Highway brought us back to Dyerville Flat for supper. Fittingly closing the day was the procession to the station through the black aisles of the forest flecked with moonlight. Bags were checked, we boarded our special Pullmans and before 10 o'clock were on our way back to San Francisco.

It would be futile to attempt a description of all the memorable impressions of an outing that was likened by many to a miniature "high trip." But let us review a few of the highlights: the morning coffee served by faithful "Scotty" while dunnage bags were being claimed; the welcome sunshine after a storm had thoroughly washed the trees during the preceding days; the indescribable charm of the redwood groves; the alluring vistas of glinting water beside white gravel beaches; the virgin undergrowth of Bull Creek canyon; Deputy "Jack's" rose garden in a high clearing in the forest; the elusive natural gas spring; the view from Grasshopper Ridge comprehending at least three counties, with range after range of wooded crests extending to the white mantled Snow Mountain where the Eel takes its source; the acres of blue and gold meadows bordered by spired conifers; the picturesque cabin amid the tanbark cuttings; the exhilarating swim in a green river-pool; the variety of commissary groups from course dinners on a cloth covered table to the one-cup supper of the "Indians" on the rocky stream-bed; the gay bandana show; and our jolly campfires, particularly the last one in a perfect setting within a circle of great fluted columns that rose to mysterious heights.

No account of the trip would be complete without mentioning the faithful work of our leader, Mr. Cosper; the courteous and patient assistance of Warden Thompson; the indispensable aid of friendly "Spud" Murphy who safely trucked our dunnage from camp to camp; the help of Mr. J. J. Geary, Passenger Traffic Agent of the Northwestern Pacific, and his assistants, in arranging railroad transportation; the enthusiastic support of Mr. Newton B. Drury, Secretary of the Save-the-Redwoods League. To these and all others whose planning and cooperation made the trip a success, we extend our hearty thanks.

LEWIS F. CLARK.

AURELIA HARWOOD MEMORIAL LODGE

(Communication from the Southern California Chapter.)

To Sierra Club Members:

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southern California Chapter August 15th, a report of the building committee was given showing that the Aurelia Harwood Memorial Lodge could be completed within the original estimate of \$5000, but that there are many facilities such as lavatories in the basement, wiring and plumbing for future needs, which can be put in now at less expense than if delayed. It was voted to proceed with this additional work and to send to the membership an appeal for contributions, \$1500 being needed therefor.

All who have seen the partly completed lodge are delighted with it. Architecturally, it is something all Sierra Club members can be proud of and it has a splendid location in the midst of a pine forest at an elevation of 6300 feet, near Manker Flat, fifty miles from Los Angeles. An excellent view of Mount San Antonio and San Antonio Falls is had from the lodge porch. The lodge is owned by the Sierra Club and all members will have equal privileges in its use.

The kitchen, dining-room and living-room are all larger than was first planned, the outside dimensions of the lodge being 63x37 feet. There is a small fireplace in the dining-room as well as a large one in the living-room. The first plan of building separate dormitories later on was abandoned by the building committee in favor of the addition now of a second story for dormitories and lockers. Much expense has been saved by Mr. Van Oosting, chairman of the building committee, having taken over the supervision of the work, and by the labor that has been contributed by many of the Sierra Club men who through the summer have worked during vacations and week-ends. In order that the lodge may be finished and dedicated free from debt, it will be necessary to raise at least \$1500 within the next two months. Please send check direct to the treasurer of the Southern California Chapter, or notation as to when it will be convenient for you to pay any subscription you may make.

By order of the Executive Committee,

SAMUEL MERRILL,

Treasurer, Southern California Chapter of Sierra Club,
445 Wilcox Building, Los Angeles, California.

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